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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,820	09/17/2003	Tsutomu Ishii	117197	4055

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

XIAO, KE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/663,820	Applicant(s) ISHII ET AL.	
	Examiner Ke Xiao	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8, 11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Nakamura (US 2003/0020701).

Regarding independent **Claim 1**, Nakamura teaches a display control device (Nakamura, Figs. 1 and 14) comprising:

a connection unit for connecting a plurality of display media in which image information to be displayed can be written by an external input (Nakamura, Figs. 1 element 20 and 14 element 10);

a recognition unit for recognizing the number of display media connected to the connection units (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]);

a writing unit for writing related information for writing the image information in the display media (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 22); and

a transmission unit for transmitting number information representing the number of display media recognized by the recognition unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 10, 19,

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22 and 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]), wherein the transmission unit transmits the number information to an external computer through a communication line. (Nakamura, Fig. 16, Pg. 6 element 22, paragraph [0107]).

Regarding independent **Claim 16**, Nakamura teaches a computer (Nakamura, Fig. 14) comprising:

- a storage unit for storing related information related to an image to be displayed on a display medium (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 19);

- a receiving unit for receiving the number of the display media as number information (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]); and

- a transmission unit for transmitting the image information on the basis of the number for the display media received by the receiving unit and the image information stored in the storage unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 22, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]), wherein the transmission unit transmits the number information to an external computer through a communication line. (Nakamura, Fig. 16, Pg. 6 element 22, paragraph [0107]).

Regarding **Claim 2**, Nakamura further teaches that the display media are detachably connected to the connection unit (Nakamura, Figs. 1 and 14).

Regarding **Claim 3**, Nakamura teaches that the display control device further comprises a detection unit for detecting that the display media are connected to the connection unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 4**, Nakamura further teaches that the recognition unit recognizes the number of display media by counting the number of display media detected by the detection unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

Regarding **Claim 5**, Nakamura further teaches that the connection unit is connected to teach display medium by being brought into contact with the display medium (Nakamura, Fig. 14 elements 13 and 21).

Regarding **Claim 6**, Nakamura further teaches that the display media have connector elements, and the connection unit has a plurality of connection sections to be connected to the connector elements of the display media (Nakamura, Fig. 14 elements 13 and 21).

Regarding **Claims 7 and 8**, Nakamura further teaches that each display medium has a connection element, to which an input terminal and an output terminal are connected (Nakamura, Fig. 14 elements 13, 21 and 35),

the connection unit comprises a terminal pair for each connectable display medium, the terminal pair comprising a recognition signal supply terminal for outputting a recognition signal to the input terminal of the connection element and a recognition signal detection terminal for detecting a recognition signal from the output terminal of the connection element (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 35, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]), and

the recognition unit counts recognition signals at the recognition signal detection terminals of the connected unit (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 30, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]).

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Regarding **Claim 11**, Nakamura further teaches that the display media are memory-type display media (Nakamura, Pg. 1 paragraphs [0001-0004]).

Regarding **Claim 14**, Nakamura teaches a receiving unit for receiving image information related to an image to be displayed on the display media from an external computer, wherein, on the basis of the image information received by the receiving unit and the number of display media recognized by the recognition unit, the writing unit writes related information in the display media (Nakamura, Fig. 16, elements 20 and 22, Pg. 6 paragraph [0107]).

Regarding **Claim 15**, Nakamura further teaches that the writing unit writes image information to be displayed on the display media as the related information (Nakamura, Fig. 14 element 22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura (US 2003/0020701).

Regarding **Claim 9**, Nakamura teaches that the connection unit is connected to the display media by wireless infrared communication without being in contact with the display media (Nakamura, Pg. 8 paragraph [0137]). Nakamura fails to teach that the

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wireless communication is by radio communication. The examiner takes official notice that radio communication is well known in the wireless art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use radio communication instead of infrared communication in order to achieve long-range connections.

Regarding **Claim 10**, Nakamura teaches that the display media have identification numbers, which can be given and received by wireless communication (Nakamura, Pg. 2 paragraph [0023]), and the recognition unit counts the number of connected display media (Nakamura, Pg. 8 paragraph [0137]). Nakamura fails to teach that the display media have RFIDs representing pieces of unique information and that the recognition counts the RFIDs. The examiner takes official notice that RFIDs are well known in the art for the purposes of security. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add RFIDs to the display media of Nakamura in order to provide a method of secure data transmission, the combined teachings thereof would also teach that each RFIDs represents unique information as defined by the RFID standards and that the display media have RFIDs representing pieces of unique information which can be given and received by radio communication the RFIDs would be counted because the recognition unit of display system already counts the display media.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 6th, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding independent Claims 1 and 16, the applicant argues that the Nakamura fails to teach that the transmission unit transfers display number information to an external unit and that the external unit is a computer. The examiner specifically disagrees, Nakamura teaches that the display luminescence control means can be external to the main body of the display connection unit as shown in Fig. 17. Further a signal source may come from any source, and such a source must provide electronic display information to the display such a device can inherently be considered a computer and said display luminescence control means can also be considered part of said computer, therefore it is maintained that Nakamura teaches that the transmission unit transfers number information to an external source which is a computer.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ke Xiao whose telephone number is (571) 272-7776.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

February 20th, 2007 - kx -


SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER